

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A sandwich structure for protecting a fixed or mobile installation or equipment, said sandwich structure comprising:

an outer plate made of a first ductile material and designed to resist first impacts of projectiles; and to absorb a part of the kinetic energy of the projectiles,

an inner layer made [from] of a second hard material which is harder and less ductile than said first ductile material, and which is designed to stop projectiles that passed through the outer plate while having had said part of the kinetic energy absorbed, [the second hard material being harder and less ductile than said first ductile material,]

spacers for disposing the outer plate at a distance from the inner layer, so that no part of the outer plate has any contact with the inner layer, and,

fixing means for detachably fixing the outer plate to the inner layer at the location of the spacers.

Claims 2-4. (cancelled.)

5. (previously presented) The sandwich structure according to claim 1, wherein the inner layer is made of steel and the outer plate is made of aluminum.

claims 6-12. (cancelled.)

13. (previously added) The sandwich structure according to claim 1, wherein the outer plate has an entirely flat shape.

claims 14-16. (cancelled.)

17. (New) The sandwich structure according to claim 1, wherein elastic elements are inserted between each spacer and the outer plate.

18. (New) The sandwich structure according to claim 1, wherein each spacer has a tubular shape.

19. (New) The sandwich structure according to claim 18, wherein fixing means include screws, the outer plate having holes for the passage of the screws and each spacer being provided with a threaded bore holding the screws fixing the outer plate onto the spacer, and wherein each spacer is welded to the inner layer.

20. (New) The sandwich structure according to claim 18, wherein fixing means include screws, the outer plate has holes for the passage of the screws and each spacer is provided with a threaded bore, the outer plate being fixed to the spacer by a screw having passed through a hole of the outer plate and being screwed into the threaded bore of the spacer, and wherein each spacer is welded to the inner layer.

21. (New) The sandwich structure according to claim 18, wherein fixing means include screws, the outer plate and the inner layer have holes for the passage of the screws, and each spacer is provided with a threaded bore, the outer plate and the inner layer being fixed to the spacer by a corresponding screw having passed through a hole of the outer plate and the inner layer, respectively, and being screwed into the threaded bore of the spacer.

22. (New) The sandwich structure according to claim 18, wherein fixing means include screws and nuts, the outer plate and the inner layer have holes for the passage of the screws, and each spacer is provided with a bore, the outer plate and the inner layer being fixed to the spacer by a screw having passed through a hole of the inner layer, the bore of the spacer, a hole of the outer plate, and being screwed into the corresponding nut.

23. (New) The sandwich structure according to claim 22, wherein the bore of the spacer is a threaded bore into which the screw is screwed.

24. (New) The sandwich structure according to claim 1, wherein the outer plate has holes for the passage of the fixing means therethrough, at least some of said holes

loosely receiving said fixing means for enabling differential expansion of said outer plate and inner layer when the temperature changes.

25. (New) The sandwich structure according to claim 1, further comprising conducting elements separate from the outer plate, said conducting elements being detachably fixed to said outer plate and extending between the outer plate and the inner layer to provide electrical continuity between the outer plate and the inner layer, each conducting element having a bore, and, attachment screws disposed in said bores at a distance from the inner layer for fixing the conducting elements to said outer plate.

26. (New) The sandwich structure according to claim 25, wherein the conducting elements are flexible to enable differential dilatations between the outer plate and the inner layer.